

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 EB-04 NEA-07 /040 R

DRAFTED BY IO/AGR:JSWOLF:DKS

APPROVED BY IO:CWMAYNES

IO/AGR:PJBYRNES

EUR/RPE:PMC CLEAN

IO/EX/IR:KCARROLL

EB/OF:FMCEL DOWNEY

AID/IIA:KKAUFFMAN

USDA/ERS:MKRIESBERG

NEA/PAB:DARCHARD

EUR/NE:SWORRELL

EUR/NE:DDONCHI

-----039839 310147Z /64

R 300213Z MAR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY OSLO

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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LIMDIS, ROME FOR FODAG - USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, WFC

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

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REFS: (A) STATE 76615, (B) ROME 5444 (NOTAL), (C) USUN
NEW YORK 1088 (NOTAL), (D) LONDON 4355 (NOTAL)

1. REFS B, C, AND D INFORMED U.S. THAT UK AND BANGLADESH
PUTTING FORWARD CANDIDATES FOR JOB OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, TO SUCCEED JOHN HANNAH (US).
BRITISH CANDIDATE IS SIR FREDERICK KEARNS. BANGLADESH

CANDIDATE IS SALAHUDHIN AHMED. NORWEGIANS ALSO FIELDING CANDIDATE LASSE AASLAND TOWARD WHOM WE UNDERSTOOD SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM INITIALLY HAD BEEN LEANING. NOW KEARNS SEEMS TO HAVE EDGE.

2. WE HAVE UNDERSTOOD THAT SOME IN WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (PROTECT PRESIDENT TANCO AND HANNAH) NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT AASLAND AND ARE PREPARED TO SUPPORT U.S. CANDIDATE. WE HAVE INDICATED TO WALDHEIM AND TANCO THAT IF AASLAND NOT TO BE APPOINTED, U.S. GREATLY INTERESTED IN ADVANCING CANDIDATE. WE NOW HAVE INFORMED THEM OF THE CANDIDACY OF MAURICE WILLIAMS, CHAIRMAN OECD DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE, FOR THE WFC JOB.

3. LONDON AND DACCA SHOULD RESPOND TO HOST GOVERNMENT REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT OF THEIR CANDIDATES ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

--WE APPRECIATE INFORMATION CONCERNING CANDIDACY OF KEARNS (AHMED) FOR WFC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION. WE KNOW THIS REPRESENTS THE COMMITMENT OF YOUR COUNTRY TO HELP MEET THE PROBLEMS OF INTERNATIONAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, AND YOUR INTEREST IN SEEING THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN MOBILIZING WORLD ATTENTION IN THESE PROBLEMS.

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-- THE UNITED STATES HAS PRESENTED TO SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM THE CANDIDACY OF MAURICE WILLIAMS, CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE DAC.

-- WE FEEL THE WILLIAMS CANDIDACY UNDERSCORES THE ABIDING COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY AND POSITIVELY IN THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL.

-- UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THEREFORE, WE REGRET THAT WE WILL BE UNABLE TO SUPPORT THE KEARNS (AHMED) CANDIDACY.

4. FOR OSLO. YOU MAY INFORM NORWAY THAT WE FOUND AASLAND TO BE A WELL-QUALIFIED CANDIDATE AGAINST WHOM THE U.S. WAS NOT GOING TO PUT FORWARD A CANDIDATE WHILE AASLAND SEEMED TO BE THE FRONT-RUNNER. THE SPLURGE OF NEW CANDIDATES DIMINISHED THE LIKELIHOOD OF HIS SUCCESS, AND THE UNITED STATES HAS DECIDED NOW IT MUST ALSO SEEK THE POSITION. WE HAVE SEEN A DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS IN SENIOR UN POSTS IN GENERAL AND IN THE FOOD/ AGRICULTURE AREAS SPECIFICALLY. THE QUESTION OF AMERICAN REPRESENTATION IS AN IMPORTANT QUESTION AND IF WE ARE

TO MAINTAIN STRONG PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT
FOR THE WORK OF THE UN WE FEEL NOW WE MUST PUT FORWARD
AND STRONGLY SUPPORT HIGHLY QUALIFIED AMERICANS FOR THESE
POSTS.

5. FOR ROME AND USUN. WE SHORTLY WILL BE NOTIFYING WFC
CAPITALS OF THE WILLIAMS CANDIDACY. YOU MAY AS APPRO-
PRIATE USE ABOVE WITH LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES.

6. FYI. PRIOR TO ELECTION AS DAC CHAIRMAN IN 1974
WILLIAMS WAS A SENIOR AID OFFICIAL AND IN 1973 THE
PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE 1973 SAHELIAN
RELIEF EFFORT. COOPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NOMINATION, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE081535
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JSWOLF:DKS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780139-0330
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978037/aaaaafxk.tel
Line Count: 128
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 01126ec7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 76615, 78 ROME 5444, 78 USUN NEW YORK 7
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3336073
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WORLD FOOD COUNCIL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
TAGS: AORG, APER, PORG, WFC
To: USUN NEW YORK LONDON MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/01126ec7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014